President.—Of those undertaken, and which were not recommended by the Committee.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—With reference to the others I can find out. I ask them, because a statement was made by Mr. C. Achyuta Menon during the budget session that all the roads recommended have been opened.

Roads, tanks and wells maintained by Government.

436. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing—

(1) The total length of roads maintained by the Government but not open to the public generally;

(2) The total number of tanks maintained by Government or Municipal funds;

(3) The total number of wells maintained as in (1);

(4) The total number of tanks and wells maintained by Government or Municipal funds but closed to a section or sections of the people on account of caste reasons?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(1) The roads within the Trippunittura Fort and a small bit near the Irinjalakkuda Temple, among the P.W.D. roads and 2 miles of Panchayat roads.

(2) 267 tanks.

(3) 110 wells.

(4) 61 tanks and 123 wells, of which 76 wells are attached to water pandals.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—May I know the length of the roads of the Trippunittura Fort under this category which are not open to the public?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—The main road is half a mile long, and there are certain other small lanes—more or less small lanes—which come to about 2 miles.

President.—Altogether about 2½ miles.

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Then there are 2 miles of Panchayat roads. Where are they?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—In Tiruvilluamala.

A Statement regarding public roads in the State.

437. Mr. M. K. Raman.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(i) The number of public roads in Cochin State through which right of passage is prohibited for the non-caste Hindus;

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(ii) The length, the locality and names of these roads ;

(iii) Whether they are constructed and maintained by the P. W. D;

(iv) Why such traffic is prohibited to non-caste Hindus ;

(v) Whether the Government have any objection to throw open the use of these roads to all people, and if so, on what principle the objection is based ?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—(i), (ii) and (iii). The roads within the Trippunittura Fort and a small bit near the Irinjalakkuda Temple among the P. W. D. roads and two miles of Panchayat roads, namely, the Tiruvilluamala Temple road.

(iv) The roads are in close proximity to temples and palaces.

(v) There cannot be a sudden break with the past. Longstanding customs have to be respected.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—" There cannot be a sudden break with the past." Has the Government come to know that public opinion has also undergone some change ?

President—But not a sudden change. So this is only a gradual change, and public opinion changes gradually.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Have the Government taken any steps to find whether there is any change in the public opinion? According to the change in the public opinion have the Government also modified its view ?

President.—These questions cannot be considered as requests for information.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—We expect of course, Government to change opinions according to changes in public opinions and to adopt policies accordingly.

President.—It is a matter of difference of opinion. What we have got to decide is which opinion will prevail. That is all.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Then with regard to the 2nd part of the question, "Longstanding customs have to be respected".

Do the Government think that the anxious feeling of the non-caste Hindus need not be respected ?

President.—Consideration will however be given to all that

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Mr. M. K. Raman.—The respect of the longstanding custom and the feelings of the non-caste Hindus, when these two things come into conflict, may I know which would prevail with the Government?

President.—It is very difficult to answer that question. I mean to say we must find out with regard to longstanding custom how far it requires to be respected, to what extent it should be pushed to and so on. So many sides have to be considered.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—These are all longstanding customs. *Respect* to the custom observed by only a small majority and the *feeling* felt by a very large majority, custom and feeling, these two things come into conflict. What I like to know is, in this conflict, which will prevail with the Government—whether the feelings of the majority of the people or the respect for the longstanding custom ?

Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—That is a hypothetical question.

President.—That supplementary question does not arise.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—" Longstanding customs have to be respected" it is said. Did the Government ascertain whether the customs are reasonable or otherwise, whether such customs as are reasonable are alone respected, or invariably all customs are respected ? Customs must be reasonable. May I know whether indiscriminately all customs are respected or only such as are reasonable ?

President.—The point is whether longstanding customs of a reasonable character alone are to be respected, or all customs apart from their reasonableness or otherwise must be respected.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—A point of order under Rule 8, Sir. This question does not arise. This is an abstract legal question whether customs should be reasonable and should be respected. Previously, the Hon'ble Member was asking the solution of a certain hypothetical problem. He must question only on specific facts.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Rule 8.

President.—Then let that rule be respected, Mr. Raman.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I shall certainly respect the rule. The answer given to my question is "Longstanding customs have to be respected". A supplementary question arises out of it as to w at the Government means by saying "longstanding customs"—whether the Government will take into consideration the reasonableness of the customs. Are all customs respected, reasonable customs ?

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Rao Sahib T. V. Kasturi Ranga Ayyar.—It is an abstract question

Mr. M. K. Raman.—It is not a hypothetical proposition. There is an answer "longstanding customs". Is it the length of the standing that is taken into consideration or the reasonableness also?

President.—Reasonableness is also to be taken into account.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—Then, do the Government think, that the closing of the roads to public traffic is reasonable?

President.—Which road is it that you are referring to?

Mr. M. K. Raman.—That is, answer to sub-division (V). The answer is given "Longstanding customs have to be respected". Of course, such of the longstanding customs as are reasonable should be respected. Then my supplementary question is:—Do the Government think that shutting out a certain section of the people from the public roads is reasonable?

President.—It is a matter of opinion.

Mr. M. K. Raman.—I shall not ask the opinion of the Government. I ask whether that is considered to be reasonable by the Government.

President.—It is not a question of facts. It is only asking the opinion of the Government.

Public roads, wells, tanks, &c., not open to all castes and communities.

438. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list, with full particulars, of all roads, wells, tanks and institutions maintained out of public funds which are not open to all castes and communities and to mention the reason, if any, for not opening them to all classes of people?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—

Roads.

The roads within the Trippunittura Fort and a small bit near the Irinjalakkuda Temple among the P. W. D. roads and two miles of Panchayat roads namely the Tiruvilluamala Temple road.

Wells, tanks and water pandals.

A statement containing the information is appended (*Vide Appendix II*).

They cannot be opened to all classes of people on account of caste reasons.

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